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Religious syncretism in bicultural relationships

on the example of Polish-Turkish and Polish-Tunisian marriages

Abstract

Based on qualitative field studies of identity construction processes of 32 Polish women married to Muslims, this paper focuses on religion and examines how respondents using different strategies deal with religious differences in the context of family life. Does this religious pluralism appear as a problem actually perceived by them?

As part of the theory of the relative acculturation process, this dissertation explores: (i) identity processes among Polish women who are married to Muslims (Turks and Tunisians); (ii) the qualitative nature of religious affiliation in bicultural families; (iii) religious educational decisions for children brought up in these families.

The aim of the study was to investigate and describe the dynamics of negotiations of the old and new religious identity of the respondents, which leads to understand the meanings that the respondents in religiously mixed relationships construct for their functioning in them, as how to find religious coherence and authenticity in bicultural relations.